

“Dream-Filters”

I conceived of “Dream Filters” in December 2020 as a means of using Python code to relate files in non-linear ways. More specifically, I wanted to create playlists of various media using a fuzzy logic that results in a dream-like feeling. I started by using the data of file creation as determinant, rather than titles or sheer randomness. Music and video were coded to cluster around certain dates, furnish a few iterations, then move off to a new date point. The web application “Rachel” was created in this manner.

When it came time to work with text, I could easily apply the time-centered filter to a number of files. But the text within the files-- this could also be manipulated, and that would require an additional logic. For each iteration, I created a lexicon of several dozen words randomly chosen from the total word list of a text file. Each lines-cluster began with a sentence containing at least one of these words.

As a result, there was some repetition but indeed, the texts took on a dreamlike quality-- as are dreams, they were semi-episodic, fragmented, and recurred with a rhythm that was hard to describe.

I tried the text version of the dream filter on a number of works, sometimes combining them together. The intention was never to replace the originals-- rather, to provide an occasional dream-substitute, if desired.

--Thomas Park 12.25.2020

Some Examples Of Dream-Filtered Media:

https://archive.org/details/Dreams_In_Prose

<https://archive.org/details/DreamsInPoetry>